

Behind the Scenes

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

If you follow our Police Department Facebook page, and I sincerely hope that you do, you will get regular updates about beach conditions, arrests, ice cream tickets and various activities going on in Pine Knoll Shores. This is just the tip of the iceberg on what goes on. It takes a lot of work to keep the Police Department operating and ready to respond to any/all emergencies that will inevitably come up. I think it is extremely important for residents and homeowners to know what goes on behind the scenes and what we are doing to help keep Pine Knoll Shores the paradise it is. We have recently purchased some new equipment to improve our responsiveness to emergencies on the beach, increase officer safety and better prepare us to deal with street closures in a post-hurricane scenario.

- 1) We purchased a new beach vehicle, a 2019 Honda Pioneer 1000. Delivered on July 11, we have already put over 700 miles on it patrolling our beach. Compared to our old beach vehicles, this one is safer for our officers to operate, can hold three people in the front seat and can operate on a wider variety of terrain. The vehicle was purchased using funds we received from a grant and did not cost our taxpayers anything.
- 2) We equipped our officers with a wireless microphone system that will give them increased radio coverage throughout Pine Knoll Shores. Poor radio reception is a constant battle and can put our officers in unsafe situations or prevent them from calling for assistance when they need it. The wireless microphone system will be a big improvement for them.
- 3) During the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Florence, we realized we did not have enough traffic barricades to close all of the flooded streets, and we were forced to borrow some from Atlantic Beach. We have remedied this situation and purchased a 6'x12' enclosed trailer and enough traffic barricades to close as many streets as necessary. Hopefully, we will never have to do this again, but we are now prepared to do so if needed.

Residents and homeowners are welcome to stop by the Police Department to check out any of our equipment.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During July, there were 5 arrests; 63 911 hang-ups; 6 alarm activations; 10 animal calls; 2 larceny calls; 10 disturbance calls; 41 assist Fire/EMS calls; 2 motor vehicle collisions; 4 assist other agency calls; 348 traffic stops; 57 citations issued, which included 13 speeding, 2 stop sign/stop light, 14 registration/inspection, 6 license revoked/expired and 34 other traffic violations; 76 beach patrols; 372 business checks; 511 foot patrols; and 201 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 85.5 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 37.5 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

During July, responders handled 3 fires, 33 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 2 service calls, 1 hazardous condition (no fire) call, 7 good intent calls and 10 false alarm and false calls. Personnel participated in 498 training hours.

REMINDER: Lock your doors, especially your vehicles, and don't leave valuables in sight. Report suspicious people or vehicles to dispatch (726-1911) so that the police can be notified. You are not "bothering" the police if you call to report something that doesn't look right. They prefer to assess the situation rather than find out after the fact that you had noticed something and didn't report it. Alert citizens are assets to the community.

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ARTICLE DEADLINE

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Mon. Oct. 14	Nov.
Wed., Nov. 13	Dec.
Wed., Dec. 11	Jan. 2020
Wed., Jan. 15	Feb.
Wed., Feb. 12	March
Wed., March 13	April
Wed., April 15	May

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The 19th of the month prior to desired issue
Articles always welcome.